

## Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05

SCCT-01 /061 W

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R 112055Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3385

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1615

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DR

SUBJECT: THREE ARRESTED FOR JOURNALIST'S MURDER

REF: SD 1334

1. POLICE HAVE ARRESTED TWO MEMBERS JUAN BOSCH'S PARTIDO DE LA LIBERACION DOMINICANA (PLD) AND A WRITER FOR WEEKLY "AHORA" NEWSMAGAZINE AS SUSPECTS IN MURDER OF ORLANDO MARTINEZ. THEY ARE: DIOMEDES MERCEDES, FORMER PARTIDO COMUNISTA DOMINICANO, NOW PLD MEMBER, WHO HAS OFTER BEEN SUSPECTED OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE; RAFAEL ANTONIO LUNA, PLD ACTIVIST WITH RECORD OF ALLEGED VIOLENCE; AND MELVIN MANON ROSSI, WRITER FOR "AHORA", FORMERLY EDITED BY MARTINEZ.

2. AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE PUBLIC NO EVIDENCE LINKING THESE MEN TO CRIME. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT CITES ONLY "INDICATIONS" THAT THEY WERE "MATERIAL AND INTELLECTUAL" PERPETRATORS OF THE MURDER. MEANWHILE, BODY OF ORLANDO MARTINEZ HAS BEEN EXHUMED AND BULLET REMOVED, BUT BALLISTICS TESTS NOT YET COMPLETED.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARRESTS HAS MET GENERAL SKEPTOSISM. BOSCH HAS DENOUNCED WHOLE PROCEDURE AND CALLED FOR DIS-SOLUTION OF INVESTIGATING COMMISSION. MANON'S FEKILY AND  
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FRIENDS HAVE PRESENTED ALIBI. MERCEDES, ANTICIPATING

ARREST, ISSUED STATEMENT THAT IT WAS ALL ONLY A MANEUVER AND THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ARREST WOULD BE "NORTH-AMERICAN IMPERIALISM, ITS EMBASSY AND ITS INSTRUMENTS, PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER, THE EXTENSION OF THE CIA IN SANTO DOMINGO AS THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATA A THE POLICE COMMISSION, THE POLICE HIERARCHY, THE JUDGE OF INSTRUCTION AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR."

4. COMMENT: LEAST CREDIBLE ASPECT OF POLICE CASE IS FACT THAT ON APRIL 9, AT VERY MOMENT PRESIDENT BALAGUER WAS BROADCASTING APPEAL TO CITIZENRY TO COOPERATE IN HELPING TO FIND MARTINEZ' KILLERS, PUBLIC PROSECUTOR WAS KNOWN TO BE PREPARING HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARREST OF THESE THREE SUSPECTS. THERE IS WIDESPREAD DOUBT THAT IF POLICE REALLY THOUGHT THEY WERE HOLDING MARTINEZ' KILLERS PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNINFORMED. HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, MEMBERSHIP, JOURNALISTS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, ARRESTS, POLITICAL PARTIES  
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**Subject:** THREE ARRESTED FOR JOURNALIST'S MURDER  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, DR, (MARTINEZ, ORLANDO), (MERCEDES, DIOMEDES), (ANTONIO LUND, RAFAEL), (MANON ROSS, MELVIN)  
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